

## *The African Conquests*

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acquaintance with the Levant as a whole combined to make him the greatest of Roger's sea-captains. In the occupation of the African towns he showed a statesmanship no less remarkable than his audacity and skill, and one must see in the whole policy of humanity the recommendations of the Admiral, sanctioned by the master whose favour he had so completely obtained,

It was not only on the African coast that George of Antioch proved to be the King's right arm. The whole naval armament was probably under his control; on one occasion we see him accompanying the royal army on the march inland to Apulia; in the reduction of the coast towns it is generally he who blockades from the sea-side, In 1129 and 1139 the fleet which co-operates with the army and forces Bari into surrender is commanded by him, and the fall of Amalfi in 1131 was mainly his work. The triumph of the King over his rebels in the ten years' war could never have been accomplished without the fleets, and the "admiral among admirals" who maintained command of the sea and closed the ports of the sea-towns, The most striking of the Antiochene's exploits

were displayed in the attack upon  
the Greek  
Empire in 1147-48. The rapidity and  
audacity  
with which George fell upon Corinth  
and sacked  
the treasures of Thebes, while Corfu,  
Cephalonia,  
and other scenes of Guiscard's  
victories were  
once more occupied by the Normans,  
seemed to  
herald a final overthrow of the  
ancient Empire,